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COUNTRY Yugoslavia

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SUBJECT Cominform Propaganda Activity in Yugoslavia

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1. From July 1949 through July 1950, nine Cominform cells were discovered in various Yugoslav military schools. As a result, 112 arrests were made including the arrest of two military instructors and four civilian professors. In all, 15 quintals of propaganda material belonging to these cells were found, including a small book specifically written for officer candidates. Most of the material was located at the military school of Maribor which had been penetrated by two Cominform cells.
2. Following the discovery of Cominform cells, new security checks were made of all the students and professors in military schools. About 100 students and professors were dismissed as security threats, while another 100 on whom there was more incriminating evidence were sentenced to forced labor for periods ranging from one to three years.
3. During this same period, about 70 Cominform cells were discovered in universities and secondary schools in Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia and Dalmatia. As far as could be determined, the principal objective of these cells was to disseminate anti-Tito propaganda. The main theme was to the effect that Tito and his clique had sold out to the United States and that the Yugoslav Army had become a mere tool of the "imperialists." Recently, propaganda tracts condemning American "aggression" in Korea and praising the Red Korean Army have appeared in circulation.
4. Sabotage is still being carried out by Cominformists in Yugoslavia but it appears to have no connection with the Cominform cells in the schools. In the first half of the year 1950 about 40 policemen and minor party officials were assassinated by Cominformists. There are continued attempts at railroad sabotage, a minesweeper was sunk in the port of Boka Kotorska and two smaller naval units were damaged at Tivat.
5. The enormous volume of propaganda material discovered in Yugoslavia during the past few months has convinced Yugoslav authorities that it could not have been all smuggled over the frontier. It is believed that there are at least two clandestine Cominform printing presses operating within the country.

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